

Location - The route begins along Idaho 77 at Albion south to the Connor Creek Junction, and continues south through Elba and Almo and the scenic City of Rocks National Reserve. From the Reserve, the route follows Birch Creek to the City of Oakley and the Oakley Historic District where it joins Idaho 27.

Length - 49 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway - Paved secondary highway from Albion to Connor Creek Junction. Connor Creek to Almo is a narrow winding paved road, and from Almo to Oakley the road is graveled until it joins Idaho 27 at Oakley.

When to see it - Best weather to travel is April to November. Call 208-824-5519 for road conditions.

Special attractions - The beautiful Albion Valley, including Pomerelle Ski Area and Lake Cleveland Recreation Area; Castle Rocks State Park; City of Rocks National Reserve; Oakley Historic District.

Camping - Howell Canyon and City of Rocks with R.V. parks in Oakley, and at the I-84 Interchange at the Snake River.

Services - Full services in Burley; food and lodging in Albion; partial services in Oakley and Almo.

Contacts - City of Rocks National Reserve: 208-824-5519; Sawtooth National Forest: 208-678-0430; Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce: 208-679-4793, mcidcham@cyberhighway.net and Wallace_Keck@partner.nps.gov, www.minicassiachamber.org; www.rideidaho.com; or www.nps.gov/ciro.

City of Rocks Back Country Byway

Forming a 49-mile necklace around the Albion Mountain Range, the City of Rocks Back Country Byway traces a rural landscape steeped in history and geological significance.

Beginning in Albion on Idaho 77, the byway traverses the outskirts of the Pomerelle Ski Area and Lake Cleveland Recreation Area as it heads south.

At the base of the byway's necklace lies its jewel, the City of Rocks National Reserve, where more than 700 challenging climbs rival Yosemite National Park and make it a favorite spot among technical rock climbers worldwide. The visitor center in Almo provides travel information, and a series of wayside exhibits through the park interpret the historic California Trail migration from 1843 through 1869.

Heading north, the last leg of the byway ends in historic Oakley; the entire town, in fact, is on the National Register of Historic Places and features the state's largest concentration of old stone and wood-framed buildings.

